

*Bitterne Local
History Society*



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Registered Charity No. 1005127

Bygone bitterne

AUTUMN 2016 Volume 134



(Non Members - £2.00 please)

(see page 24)

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Meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month (September - July) at 7pm in the United Reformed Church Hall, Bitterne Village. Visitors are welcome (£3.00 per meeting). Annual membership subscription is £14., Concessionary (under 18 & over 80s) is £8 and Overseas membership is £17.

Opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily the views of the Society, but those of individual contributors.

THIS MAGAZINE CAN BE PRODUCED IN LARGE PRINT FORMAT IF
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Editor	2-3
Dear Friends	4-5
Keith Le May - Ian Abrahams	3
Monthly Meeting - July - The Romance of the Letter Box	6
Joan Holt	7
Home front weekend	8
Peartree Gardens, some memories - Alan GClark	9-10
Jeanne Nicol - Peter Richards	11-14
BLHS Outings - Mary Abraham	14
Yet more memories - Jim Brown	16-18
To the Editor	20-21
BLHS Virtual reality time travel - Jim Brown	22-23
Presidential Patter - Ian Abrahams	24-25
The Hampshire Religious Census 1851 - Jim Brown	26-27
Fall of bombs on Bitterne Park	30
Russells of Sholing - Jim Brown	30
BLHS Calendar	32

From the Editor

Well here it is! The Autumn edition of Bygone Bitterne, volume 134 And my final edition as editor.

It's hard to believe that it's been ten years since Ian approached me and asked if I would consider taking over from Jim Brown. Time certainly does fly when you are enjoying yourself!

I had never done anything like this before but with help and encouragement from Jim Brown, I took on the challenge and here I am 40 editions, 2 PCs, 2 Printers (the professional kind, that is) and countless hours later, very proud of what I have achieved and produced for our society members.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped me along the way.

Jim Brown for giving me guidance from the very beginning and keeping me supplied with pieces to fill the pages.

John Butler (the Printer) who has provided sound advice on the technical side of producing the magazine and always manages to deliver the final product on time - even when I've been late getting the final draft to him! I'll miss our brief doorstep chats about your holidays.

Our President Ian, for regularly hunting out photos from the archives to help illustrate articles, for proof reading and checking that facts and, especially, my spelling was correct. Not to mention keeping me on my toes by submitting his entries right on (or even after) deadline.

Peter, our Chairman, for his support, encouragement and ensuring that I have enough to fill the magazine & on track to meet the deadline.

Finally a huge thank you to everyone else who has submitted an entry for the magazine, with out you there would be no magazine.

I now hand the editorial baton over to Steve and encourage you to continue to provide him with your interesting memories and stories.

Thank you

Barbara

KEITH LE MAY 1931-2016 - Ian Abrahams

Soon after Keith joined our society he quickly showed his enthusiasm for historical research. He was already a member of the Huguenot Society and was researching his family and its French origins. Living in Chessel Avenue he was inevitably going to be interested in the history of the Chessel Estate and following encouragement from members of our society he agreed to put together a history of the Southampton Garden Suburb, also known as the Chessel Estate. This was published with much help from Vice President Jim Brown in April 2010 and has become one of the most popular of our local papers. Future generations will be much indebted to Keith for the extensive research he carried out into the area covered by the booklet and it serves as a lasting tribute to him.



Dear Friends,

Sadly I have to report that one of our long standing members, Keith Le May, died earlier this year. His funeral was on 1st July 2016 at the Church of the Holy Saviour in Bitterne. He was an active member for many years and as part of his contribution to the society he wrote a couple of Local Papers published by BLHS, including *The Southampton Garden Suburb: also known as The Chessel Estate*, which is still in print today and continues to sell in our charity shop. On behalf of the society I would like to express my condolences to his friends and family.

Congratulations go to BLHS Vice President and founder member, Jeanne Nicol, who celebrated her 90th birthday in August this year (see page 11 for her memories of how the society got started).

On 4th June, with the help of BLHS volunteers, the Home Front was recreated at Manor Farm and we all had a fun day (see page 8).

Our BLHS meeting on Sat 11th June featured a talk by John Avery entitled 'The Huguenots of Southampton and the South Coast' which I have been told was very interesting.

On Saturday 25th June, BLHS took part in a Vintage Summer Fayre at Glenfield School. The theme was the history of Bitterne from the 1920s onwards in order to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday. The BLHS exhibit consisted of a map and pictures on a display board and the Fayre was open from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm. The event was very successful with interest shown by former teachers as well as other visitors. My thanks go to Martyn Basford for representing the society on the day.

BLHS is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year and commemorations began with a week of events in July beginning with a talk entitled 'Bitterne Then and Now' by Keith Marsh at Bitterne Conservative Club at 8.30pm on Tuesday 5th July. The club was open to non-members on this particular day and the talk was well attended and much appreciated by all those present. This was followed by a guided walk around Bitterne at 7.00 pm on Friday 8th July also by Keith Marsh. It was good to see a number of new faces on the walk as well as some of our regulars. I'd like to express my thanks to Keith for his contributions to the week of celebrations, which concluded with our Saturday Meeting on 9th July when Tony Cross gave his talk, entitled 'The Romance of the Letter Box' at URC (see page 6). I didn't realise how much there is to learn about letterboxes and I for one thoroughly enjoyed the talk.

SAGA (Southampton Allotments and Garden Association) organised a Show on 6th August at Peartree Green Church Hall and BLHS were invited to attend with a 'gardening-themed' stall. Thanks go to Ian Abrahams for setting up the stall and to Trish McPherson for helping out on the day.

On 11th August a Community Event in Bitterne Precinct under the banner of 'Make Bitterne Better' was organised by Southampton City Council in conjunction with the Junior Neighbourhood Wardens. BLHS were present with a display of images from Bitterne's past prepared by Martyn Basford. Thank you to Marion Marais for helping Martyn set up the stall on the morning of the event. A BLHS Treasure Hunt, where children had to find pictures of the Bitterne Lion in shop windows was really popular with more than 40 entries. Thank you to Ian Abrahams for organising the Treasure Hunt, to Southampton Children's Play Association for contributing prizes for the event and to Trish

McPherson and Joy Bowyer for encouraging children to take part. All in all it was a great day.

We will once again have held a Heritage Open Weekend - this year on 10th September - the day this magazine is distributed. We are pleased to report that transport from Southampton over the Itchen Bridge to BLHS Heritage Centre in Peartree Avenue and then over Northam Bridge back to Southampton via a vintage bus service, free of charge to passengers, was organised in advance to support the day. Our display theme was 'Crossing the River Itchen' with images of bridges from the past (including the floating bridge). As this event took place after the magazine went to print this will be reported in more detail in our next issue.

The next event we have to look forward to is the 'Tea and Talk' on 17th September to celebrate our 35th anniversary. Our President Ian Abrahams will be giving a slide show and talk entitled 'Bitterne through the Years' and this will be followed by afternoon tea with freshly baked home-made cake and tea or coffee. Tickets are available from BLHS Charity shop in Peartree Avenue. This event will be held at the Catholic Church Hall in Bitterne – doors open at 2.00pm. We would like to encourage non-members to come along – so please tell your friends.

As many readers will already know, this is the last issue of *Bygone Bitterne* edited by Barbara McCaffery, who has been doing this job; splendidly I wish to add, for the past ten years. My thanks go to Barbara for all those years of hard work making sure the magazine is full of interesting articles and published on time – no mean feat as I'm sure you will agree. Thank you Barbara. Our new editor is Steve Adams, who will take over the reins in time for the December issue; I wish him all the very best in his new role.

We have more talks to look forward to both this year and next, and for those of you who missed the Southampton Ukulele Jam last year will have another chance to see them on 10th December when they will be entertaining us once again with their special brand of music. It is well worth coming along for the party atmosphere and the pre-Christmas refreshments – see you then.

Best wishes,
Peter

JULY MONTHLY MEETING - The Romance of the Letterbox with Tony Cross

Until May 6th 1840 payment for post was made by the person receiving it. This made the postman very vulnerable to robbery so it was decided that the person sending the post should pay and therefore stamps were invented. As the UK was the first to print stamps we are the only country not to have its name on the stamp. Initially letters had to be taken to a post office but it was soon realised that the use of local post boxes would make the system more accessible. In order to deliver when the recipient was not available, the public were then asked to make a letter box in their front door.

Post boxes were made by the local foundry and there was no standardisation until 1857. One of these 'First National Standard' boxes remains in Hambledon. Another old box still in use is in a village near Sherborne in Dorset.

Tony told us about many examples of different post boxes including hexagonal ones designed by Penfold from Hazelmere of which seventy six are still in use. The story of royal insignia was also interesting. Of 150 boxes put up during the short reign of Edward VII, one remains in Winchester. The latest boxes have an aluminium cipher which Tony predicts will be difficult to paint.

Finally we were shown post boxes from around the world and reminded that knowing the age of a post box can be an aid to discovering the age of the houses in a particular street. A very interesting, well presented talk with so many details, I can only give a glimpse of something we tend to take for granted.

Do you know where these post-boxes can be found only a few hundred yards apart in the same road?



JOAN HOLT – *Jim Brown*

I was really saddened to hear of the passing of Joan Holt, especially as being now so far away and no longer able to drive, I found it impossible to attend her funeral. She was a special friend and dedicated to Bitterne Local History Society. Here are two reminders of her.



Three
Vice-
Presi-
dents

at the BLHS Anniversary meal in 2011



Taken

at a Watercross Line wartime re-enactment event

HOME FRONT WEEKEND - text by Peter Richards & photos by Mary Abraham

The Home Front was recreated at Manor Farm Country Park on Saturday 4 June this year with the help of BLHS Volunteers: Marion Marais, Barbara House, Mary Abraham, Ann Martin, Martyn Basford and Peter Richards, who manned two stalls, one filled with 1940s' artefacts for display and the other with WWII books for sale. Our team mingled with re-enactors, who transported visitors back to wartime Britain with the help of stalls, displays and WWII vehicles. A great day was had by all and BLHS volunteers were once again getting our name out there!



PEARTEE GARDENS – SOME MEMORIES by Alan G Clark

I was very pleased to read Joy Bowyer's 'Story of a House' in the Winter 2015 edition of the magazine. I too, have fond memories of Peartree Gardens, which I hope will be of interest to some readers.

I was born in 1945 and lived with my parents at 234 Peartree Avenue, a semidetached house, almost opposite Stonier's newsagents at the top of Lances Hill. I am unsure of the numbering system, but our house was the right hand semi and was therefore in Peartree Avenue, while our neighbour's property (Mr and Mrs Turner at the time of which I write) occupied the corner of Peartree Avenue and Peartree Gardens and might have been either Number 236 or perhaps Number 1, Peartree Gardens. A long fence separated our house from Mrs Bucknill's land on the right, and this fence extended not only past our property but down the entire length of Peartree Gardens on that side.

Mrs Turner owned cats and it was an early excitement in my life when one or more of these came to visit our garden. At this time (about three years old) I was confined for play to our back garden but it wasn't long before I made my first friend. His name was Malcolm Butt and he was of similar age. He lived at what would have been Number 1 (or possibly 2), Peartree Gardens and we used to meet and talk in the corner of our respective gardens, where our separating fence joined that of Brownlow House. One day, Malcolm managed to squeeze through the tiny gap into my garden. I could not have been more thrilled, and immediately took him to show my mother. I was slightly disappointed however by her reaction, as she seemed more interested in Malcolm's absence from his own garden than his arrival in ours! The Butt's were not there for very long and I have a feeling (possibly wrong) that the Rev. Harries occupied the house following their departure, but in any case, it became home to a succession of Church of England Curates in the following years.

A short time later I was allowed to play with the children in Peartree Gardens and no doubt I must have been making a dreadful noise one day, for a lady from a few doors down ordered me (adults were more willing in those days to admonish the children of other adults) to stand still at the entrance to the cul-de-sac and not to join in any more games that day!

I remember, on several weekend occasions walking, with my father, the length of Peartree Gardens behind the milk cart, carrying my father's bucket and shovel, in order to collect droppings at the horse's convenience, to put on our garden. I believe it was the Brown and Harrison delivery cart, although I could be wrong. I distinctly remember being fascinated by the horse's nose-bag, which was made from heavy duty hessian - although I remember thinking that I would not want my own face stuck in my dinner all the time!

Further down on the right hand side lived Mrs Bowyer's neighbour, Kathleen Williams, from whom I received weekly piano lessons from 1953 until 1960. She was a lovely lady who lived for her music and, writing this, it feels as if I saw her only yesterday. She was to me, bold and brassy with a somewhat florid face, flyaway blonde hair and a huge personality. Her interest in her pupils went far beyond what might have been expected for she took us to piano recitals and even to the ballet - anything to further our interest in music. Entering through her front door, one turned left into the front room, which was her music room. There was an upright piano against the wall on the right by the door, and a Grand Piano in the window bay. On the wall was a photograph of her son Donald, a musician, in his Royal Marines uniform. Mrs Williams huge interest in her many pupils, and her infinite patience as she guided us through our Grades was quite remarkable, although I wonder if I fully appreciated it at the time. The examinations were held at a large double-fronted house in

Highfield Lane and I have vivid memories of Mrs Williams in the hallway, with her ear pressed to the door in order to judge how one of her pupils was performing. She also entered us in the Southampton and the Gosport Musical Festivals. As well as playing solos I played duets, mainly with Mary Dore who was in the same class as me, but also with Timothy Faithfull (who was a year older and went on to be Head Boy at King Edwards school). There were many others in my school year who benefited from Mrs Williams' tuition at that time.

At the bottom of the cul-de-sac, on the right lived the Parkinson family. John Parkinson was my age and I believe that his father must have held some position on the passenger liners because I remember being very envious of a bright red bicycle he brought John, from America. It had a curved cross-bar and was unlike any bike I'd ever seen.

Further round, lived my Class 3A teacher Mr Mew – another big personality. For the period we were taught by him in 1956, our classes were held at Bitterne Church Hall - next to the bowling green. Bitterne school was overflowing at that time. We were the earliest baby-boomers, although we weren't called that then. I believe the exploding birth rate was known as 'the bulge' in those days! Half way down Peartree Gardens on the left lived the Croucher family. Their house had, I think, been rebuilt following bombing. It was larger and more modern than the other properties. Bert Croucher was first a speedway rider and then, I believe, the manager of the Southampton Speedway team for many years.

So those are some of my memories of Peartree Gardens. It was in the main a calm oasis, shielded from the roar of buses through Bitterne village and it is very sad that it is no more. The area had been blighted by the development plans many years before the properties were required to be demolished, thus ensuring a low compensation settlement. My parents finally moved out in 1983, when my father was 82. They settled eventually at Apollo Place in West End Road. Please forgive me if any of my 'facts' in this account are something other than facts, I am more than happy to be corrected. Unfortunately I have been unable to find any photograph showing either the front of our house or of Peartree Gardens. Personally of course, I don't need a picture because every detail is etched in my memory but it would be nice to have, and might have been helpful in reminding other, perhaps younger readers, of a bygone age.

JEANNE NICOL: Founder Member and Vice-President - To commemorate the society's 35th anniversary Peter Richards talks to Jeanne Nicol about the history of the Society and her memories of being involved with BLHS from the very beginning. Jeanne, who was born in 1926, celebrates her 90th birthday on 18 August this year.



Jeanne is on the left of the picture, with her friend Doreen Snaith, raising money for the society by selling cakes at 'Ye Olde Cake Shoppe'.

What are your memories of how Bitterne Local History Society got started?

I attended a meeting in the United Reformed Church Hall in Dean Road, Bitterne, in 1981 after seeing a letter in the Evening Echo by Ian Abrahams (who I didn't know at the time) asking if anyone had concerns or questions to ask about the proposed changes to Bitterne. These changes included no traffic through Bitterne - instead a precinct, many houses to be pulled down, also churches, shops and a school, West End Road would be widened, also houses there pulled down. Many people objected to this but we could not stop it; it had already been decided.

About 20 people attended the first meeting. We decided to form a society and to meet again, which we did, once a month, on the second Saturday of the month. We decided on the name 'Bitterne Local History Society'. We soon became well known and when the Church Hall was pulled down we met at the Methodist Hall in Whites Road. I think this was about one year after the Society was formed.

What was the original objective of the Society?

Our aim was to raise enough money to open a museum to contain articles we hoped to obtain from buildings that were pulled down.

Can you describe some of the early events, meetings and people?

We needed funds so we did talks at various places, schools etc. and manned stalls at different functions. We had a cake stall which I managed with a friend, Doreen Snaith. My daughter made Victorian bonnets and aprons for Doreen and me to wear. Other members had plant stalls, a vegetable stall and a book stall. We sold new books. One of our members, Irene Pilson, wrote, '*Memories of Bitterne*' and her second book was '*More Memories of Bitterne*'. Both books sold well. Other members also wrote books.

We held the launching of Irene's book in a room at Bob Payne's premises (Undertaker) much to some people's surprise! I think this was because the Hall was not vacant.

When shops were pulled down Ian and friends would salvage what they could for example shop signs, tills and stained glass windows to name a few. Many of these were stored in members lofts and sheds (and in some cases still are) because we didn't have a museum at that time.

We collected hundreds and hundreds of photographs of Bitterne, some of which were over one hundred years old. I think there must be about 3000 photos in the collection now. When Ian gave talks he would say we had 2000 photos and one time I frowned and said we have far more than that. I think he now says 'more than 2000 photos'.

We visited other museums to get ideas for when we have our own.

I gave talks at schools about Bitterne's past. I was also asked to talk about being evacuated during the war.

At the time of the Bypass development, when the Lion statue was removed from Lion place, prior to the demolition of the shops there, BLHS wanted the Statue to be relocated to the top of Lance's Hill, where the Horse Trough is situated now, but the Council in its wisdom had it positioned outside the Red Lion where it still stands today.

Can you tell me about the opening of our Shop and Heritage Centre?

We were able to rent a shop in 1993 at 225 Peartree Avenue. This was staffed by members of the society and was open 6 days a week (as our current shop

still is). After a few years we rented 231 Peartree Avenue (in 1996) where we moved our Charity shop. People were very generous bringing bags of things to sell, clothes toys china glass and books, which had been published about the area. I worked in this shop for nearly 13 years and my daughters Barbara and Janet often helped out too. I enjoyed it!

225 Peartree Avenue became our Heritage Centre, which was staffed by Eddie, Jim and Peter on Wednesdays; they were known as the 'the Boys' and Jack Hasler on Saturdays. I often used to call in to see the 'Boys' on a Wednesday for a cup of tea and a doughnut! Eddie and Jim now call in to see me sometimes at home.

I recall Bitterne Carnival was revived for a while – can you tell me about that?

We brought the Carnival back to Bitterne for a few years. It was hard work but fun! We must have walked miles around Bitterne collecting money in our buckets, many of us dressed in Victorian clothes. We finished in the recreation ground in Hatley Road. We had the usual stalls there, selling our wares – anything to increase our funds. Mr Tom Misselbrook would be there to crown the Carnival Queen.

Bitterne Carnival 1988 – Jeanne is in the centre of the picture with other BLHS volunteers.



Tom Misselbrook, as you know, was our President for many years, and I remember my husband, who was a policeman, telling me how Tom kept a list, on

his car sales business' office wall, of all the local policemen's names and whether they took milk or sugar etc. so that when they dropped in for a drink he was well prepared!

What were the main events the Society became involved in?

For many years we had stalls at the Southampton Show on the Common (a three day event). I remember one day giving George Dymot, one of our members, a lift to the Show and on arrival we discovered there was nowhere left to park - apart from one space not too far from the marquee which a Show Steward declared was not a parking place. I promptly gave George a stick and insisted he limped to the marquee and when challenged I said we had to park there because my colleague had difficulty walking! That's one story Ian has never let me forget.

We also attended the Netley Marsh Show, the Sholing Valley Spring Fayre, and a Victorian Bus Rally. We held Summer Fetes and Winter Fetes in the Church Hall.

We also organised a one day History Fair at Townhill Park House (Gregg's school). We hired a vintage bus in which to give people rides! Various members of our society gave talks in some smaller rooms and of course we had our stalls. One time, I manned a cake stall outside, and the band alongside me was so loud I had to move the stall somewhere else!

What are your hopes for the future of the Society?

If the aim is still to create a museum then, more effort must be made to raise money to achieve this dream some of us have had for 35 years.

Well thank you very much for talking to me – I have found it very interesting and enlightening.

BLHS OUTINGS - Mary Abraham

Saturday 22nd October - Trip to either Kew Archives and Kew Gardens drop off only. Additional entrance charge to Kew Gardens. Hopefully cost should be approximately £20/£22 depending on numbers. £5 DEPOSIT PLEASE (to book the coach)

Wednesday 30th November - Trip to British Legion Poppy Factory in the morning and Museum of Brands in the afternoon. Again hopefully cost should be around £25/£26 as the Poppy Factory is donations only. £5 DEPOSIT TO CONFIRM PLEASE. (to book the coach)

Please put your names down and pay your deposits at the meetings. Thank you
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YET MORE MEMORIES - Jim Brown



The

B.L.H.S. 20th Anniversary of Museum opening



The arrival of Queen Victoria



B.L.H.S. History Fair 2009



One of our young lady booksellers



Houses in the Red Lion Cut - the one in the foreground was the first Red Lion Pub



B.L.H.S. At the Maritime Festival 2014

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To the Editor

Dear Editor

My husband John and I are members of Bitterne Local History Society and look forward to receiving our quarterly magazine which we find such an interesting read every time.

I was particularly pleased to see the photo of the shops in Montague Avenue, featured in our recent edition. I grew up in Millbrook and do not remember them but my dear friend Carole Andrews does.

We both are regular customers at the present hairdressers "Christys" in Montague Avenue, very near to the site of the original shops. The manager of Christys has a very large print of the said photograph taken from an article which featured several years ago in the Evening Echo. This reminder of Montague Avenue shops hangs proudly on a wall in the salon, a regular topic of conversation to its many customers.

I showed Carole our Spring magazine and she has kindly enclosed her thoughts and memories of the shops,

I hope this may be of interest to other readers.

Yours Tessa Curtis

Montague Avenue, Nissan Huts, Surrey Estate, Sholing - Memories from Carole Andrews (nee Fodden)

On the right hand side of Montague Avenue as you turn in from Sullivan Rd, were six shops. The first was the hairdressers 'Maison Jane' run/owned by a Mrs Joan Evans.

The second was Sperrings the newsagents which also included a Post Office, & at the far end the sweet counter as well as other goods. It was run/owned by a Mr Fred Sperring and his wife Gwenda (?). Outside the shop can be seen a Players Number 6 cigarette machine, a chocolate machine and a chewing gum machine.

Next door was Wiltshires grocery shop managed by a Mr Leal, also three lovely ladies worked there - Dora Castley & sisters Pam and Winnie Mintram. I remember all the containers with different variety of biscuits in were lined up in front of the main counter with the see-through lids. My brother Derek's favourites were Nice biscuits & sometimes when we went in as young children Dora would give him some of the broken biscuits.

The next shop was Veals the Butchers. Next was the fruit & vegetable shop run/ owned by a Mr & Mrs Hill. Last but not least was the fish & chip shop run/owned by a Mr Popple.

The young boy standing on the pavement eating a lolly is Nick Jones who lived just around the corner in Sullivan Road.

Thank you to Dave Goddard, who took the photo into the Heritage Centre seeking information on the shops, which prompted society members and friends to recall and share their memories of them.

Do you think in ten, twenty, thirty years from now we will remember the names of the shop assistants that serve us today in Bitterne?

I doubt it very much!



BLHS's VIRTUAL REALITY TIME TRAVEL – *Jim Brown*

The recent mention in the magazine of a change of ownership for the Red Lion public house reminded me of the time BLHS was at the very forefront of new technology – well at least we tried to be!

It was in the summer of 1998 when we had the idea of a “Time Travel Tour of Bitterne Village” at different periods of time. The ability to generate a digital virtual reality view of a building or area was in its infancy and I heard of a Fareham based company, Electronica (UK) Ltd, who had developed a computer based Stonehenge research package for English Heritage. They had created a computer programme that could generate digital virtual reality pictures from photos, so I got in touch with them and had the system explained to me. I had only created our Bitterne website the year before, so we were really entering the digital age!

As a result the BLHS Committee agreed we would seek a Lottery Heritage Grant to create an amazing new project. The idea was to be able, on a computer screen, to simply travel down Old Bitterne streets looking at shops and houses at a particular period of time. One could zoom up into the air for a bird's eye view or actually enter a shop or house to view the interior.

People, dressed in clothing of the period, with faces recognisable as actual known individuals (faces scanned from old photos) would also speak to you in a broad Hampshire accent. The viewer, at a touch of a button, could choose the date, such as the Roman, Medieval or 19th century period.

I contacted the Head of IT at Itchen College and he happily agreed that a select group of students each year would be trained by Electronica (UK) Ltd in the use of their programme and they would work on a particular part and period of Bitterne Village during their time at College.

There would thus be a two-fold beneficial effect, students would get an in-depth knowledge of computer programming, giving them employment opportunities in later life, and BLHS would gradually extend their virtual reality exhibition.

I therefore applied for, and received, an initial grant to fund a feasibility study into the full project. This involved Electronica (UK) Ltd scanning photos of Bitterne's Red Lion public house so that the programme could be placed on a CD, with the viewer being able to travel right around the building, above it and into it. It was an example of what could be extended, over time, for the whole area.

Two latest computers would be based at the student centre and extended to other in the Centre, so view the reality tour



'state of the art' (1999 models!) purchased, one Itchen College for dents to create the view of Bitterne, and the BLHS Heritage that visitors could resulting virtual of the village.

Over the years many students would learn and develop these specialised computer skills and BLHS would have a virtual reality exhibition that would grow year by year, a win-win situation.

The paperwork and research required by the National Lottery was considerable, and the massive file now stored in the Heritage Centre is the proof. At the conclusion of the feasibility study Marion and I travelled to London to personally deliver the bulky file, with a CD of the digital Red Lion, to the National Lottery office, with the completed application for a full grant. We eagerly awaited the result.

Rejection! On the grounds that the involvement of Itchen College students meant a different section of the Lottery Fund applied but it did not apply to BLHS! This answer baffled us as the involvement of the students had been clearly set out in the very first application for the initial feasibility grant.

It had been made clear that it would not have been practical for the students to have to visit the Heritage Centre when they wanted to work on the programme as (a) the Centre was not open at all school times and (b) their Head of IT also needed to be present to guide and help them. He, of course, would have an in-depth knowledge of the special programme. It was clear, to the most simple of individuals, that there was no practical alternative to having a computer based at the college, but it seems that did not satisfy the Lottery rules. It was now an Education project, not a Heritage one!

The bureaucracy of the Lottery Heritage Fund was amazing, worthy of the worst of Whitehall, and their failure to properly read and consider the initial application was breathtaking. It would have saved me many fruitless hours of research and preparation and the outcome was one of the biggest disappointments of my life.

FALL OF BOMBS IN BITTERNE PARK

Des O'Dell of Bullar Road, grew up in Bitterne Park and has contacted us regarding the fall of many German bombs in the area during WW2, many of which were unrecorded in official reports. He recalls them falling at:

- 11-15 Bullar Road
- 53-57 Bullar Road
- 51 Manor Farm Road
- 213 Manor Farm Road
- 10-12 Oak Tree Road

PRESIDENTIAL PATTEN

Dear Friends,

I would like to begin by quoting our editor writing in Bygone Bitterne number 130 'I must admit when I was approached by Ian and the committee about taking on the editorship (of the magazine) I was a mere fledgling to the society and wasn't sure if I was up to the task' .

Well here we are ten years and over forty editions of our magazine later and I am sure you will agree that Barbara was certainly 'up to the task'. She has done a magnificent job in producing our excellent magazine and we thank her for everything she has done and I personally apologise for missing the deadlines many times - including this issue!!

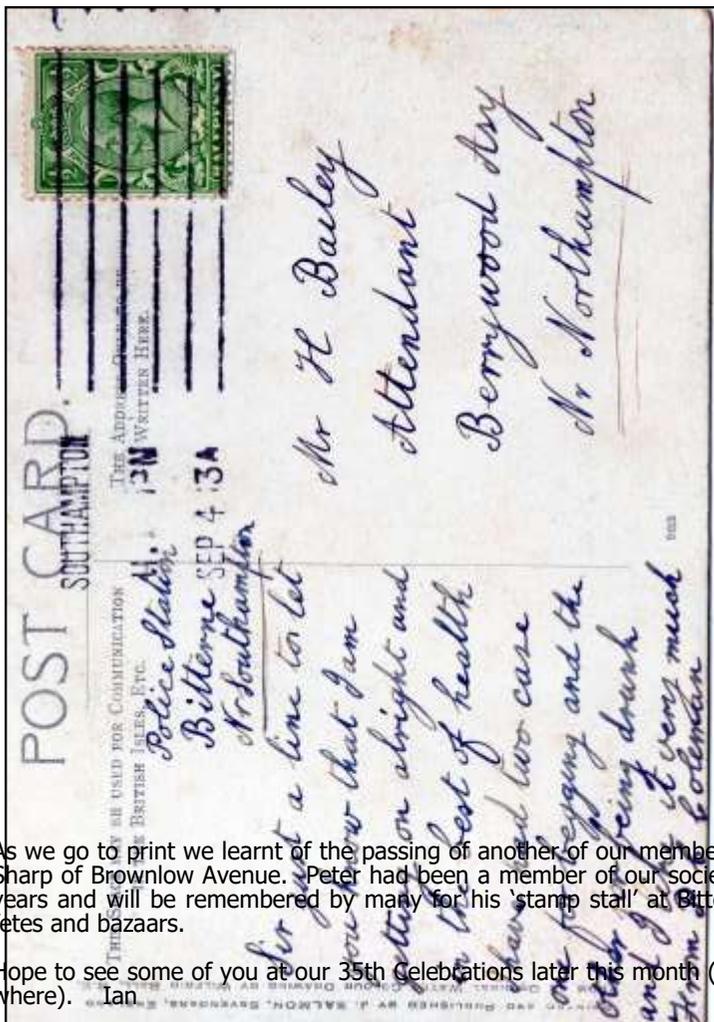
We thank Steve Adams for agreeing to take over as editor - please support him by sending in your contributions.

More changes are afoot in Bitterne as our local police station has closed after serving the community for 158 years . Bitterne's earliest known policeman P.C. Poore began working from his cottage in 1851. The first police station was erected on the corner of Bursledon Road and Whites Road and was to serve our village for over 100 years. The photograph taken in March 1963 shows the station being vacated prior to its demolition and rebuilding. The present building opened in March 1965 and closed for the final time in July.

The front cover photo shows the stalwart Hampshire County (Bitterne) police officers, photographed in around 1920, are commanded by Sergeant Ernest Harry Baugh, who was stationed there from 1912 to 1920. He retired to



Lymington and lived well into his nineties. He was succeeded by the first Southampton officer, Sergeant E. Smith, who had come top in the 1920 promotion examination. He chose Bitterne, his home village that had just become part of the Borough, for his initial posting and remained there until 1931



This is a postcard sent in 1913 from Bitterne Police Station

THE HAMPSHIRE RELIGIOUS CENSUS 1851– *Jim Brown*

Although now living far away from Bitterne, I still browse through my local books to refresh my memory about the area. One of them recently was the Religious Census of Hampshire 1851, and I looked up what it said about the Bitterne places of worship.

Bitterne & Pollack were linked at this period and were tythings of the Parish of South Stoneham. The following extracts may be of interest, especially showing the difference to today of the numbers attending on 1 March 1851, the day the religious census was taken.

St Mary's, the ancient parish church of South Stoneham

Its sources of income were £460 Tithe rent charge; £43 Glebe; and £30 fees. Total £533

Free sitting was available for 165 persons and 183 for others.

Morning attendance was 165 plus 25 Sunday Scholars.

Afternoon attendance was 130

The Minister was W.D. Harrison of South Stoneham

St James, West End District Church

Built in 1838 as an additional church by private subscription and contributions from Church Building and Diocesan Church building societies.

The sources of income were £40 Tithe; £60 permanent Endowment; £60 Pew Rents and £20 Fees. Total £180

Free sitting was available for 381 and 230 others.

Morning attendance was 262 plus 76 Sunday Scholars

Afternoon attendance was 97 plus 33 Sunday Scholars

The Perpetual Curate was James Williams Hatherill, DD, of Moorlands, Bitterne.

Episcopal Chapel in the township of Bitterne, parish of St James, Westend.

Erected originally by Baptists and held on lease for Seven Years commencing 1 December 1849, the Clergymen of St James, West End, were licensed to do duty in it and to supply additional Church accommodation for the inhabitants of Bitterne.

Free sitting was available for 76 and 73 others.

Morning attendance was 110 plus 78 Sunday Scholars.

Afternoon attendance was 65 plus 30 Sunday Scholars

Evening attendance was 126

The owner of the Chapel, by lease, was the previously mentioned James Williams Hatherill, DD,

A private house, Bitterne. Independent

This was not a separate building and was not used exclusively for worship. Accommodation for 60

Average attendance was "*about 40*", no scholars.

This room, used for preaching at Bitterne, with a second which is partially occupied when the first is filled, is a station of the local Home Missionary Society connected with the Independent Chapel, Above Bar, Southampton.

Service is only conducted here weekly on Tuesday evenings.

Richard Laishley, Lay Agent, 9 Park Place, Southampton generally officiated at the house.

Southston, Wesleyan, Bitterne

Built 1809 or 1829(?)

Free sitting was available for 66 and 66 others

Morning attendance was 70 plus 73 Sunday Scholars

Afternoon attendance was 91; Evening attendance was 68
The Steward was John Sennatt, Bittern (sic)

Bitterne Latterday Saints

This was not a separate building and was not used exclusively for worship. Free sitting was available for 18

Afternoon attendance was 13 Evening attendance was 13

The Elder was John Bayliss, 4 Princes Street, Northam.

Unfortunately the census did not record the address or location of these premises, and checks with both the full Hampshire Census and Street Directories of the period fail to give detailed information.

This
in
to

now
is
one
of



former
Chapel
what
used
be
called
Chapel
Street,
Dean
Road,
no
doubt
of the
places

worship mentioned in this article. Now the home of one of our members.

HB

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175 Oak Tree Road - bomb unexploded until 10 am later that day. One person died
17 River View Road, also two on the original recreation ground
36 St Catherines Road
Many more fell on areas of Northfield, Norwich, Halstead and Cornwall Roads.

Does anyone else have recollections of these events or maybe remember exploring the bomb sites as a child?

RUSSELLS OF SHOLING – *Jim Brown*

The piece by Colin Russell in the Summer issue about his mother, Irene, brought memories back to Marion and me. I especially recall Percy and Arthur in their South East Road ironmongery store. If you went there for a particular kind of bolt or screw they would ask why you wanted it and then recommend the exact ones needed, together with advice on whatever job you were doing. They were a wonderful source of all DIY knowledge and every customer was important enough to take the time to help. It's a service you rarely get today. This is their store in 1998.





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Evening and weekend calls available



Evening and weekend calls available



2016/2017 BLHS CALENDAR

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Oct 8th	THE STORY OF ITCHEN FERRY VILLAGE	Dr Cheryl Butler
Nov 12th	THE CIVIL WAR IN HAMPSHIRE	Don Bryan
Dec 10th	SOUTHAMPTON UKULELE JAM	Live Music
Jan 7th	QUAKERS AT WAR	Dr Frances Hurd
Feb 11th	MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT VICTORIAN STYLE	Peter Todd
Mar 11th	BYGONE BITTERNE	Ian Abrahams
Apr 8th	ALL AROUND THE GALLOPERS	Bob Smith
May 13th	LADY MARIA CLUTTERBUCK	Jane Glennie

OUTINGS - to be confirmed

Oct 22nd	KEW ARCHIVES/KEW GARDENS
Nov 30th	LEGION POPPY FACTORY & MUSEUM OF BRANDS

**Deadline for the Winter Edition
is Saturday 12th November**

You can send your contributions to the Editor Steve Adams
Email: blhseditor@gmail.com

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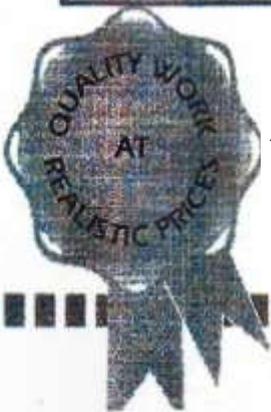
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Monday - Closed

Tuesday - Friday 9am - 5pm

Saturday 9.30am-1pm



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& Saturday & 10am-1pm

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Tuesday 1pm-4pm, Wednesday 10am-4pm,
Thursday 10am-4pm & Friday 1pm-4pm
1st & 3rd Saturday of the month 10am - 1pm

Or by arrangement - telephone 023 8063 7967

231 Peartree Ave, Bitterne, Southampton

Printed by:

**John
Buttler**
PRINTING

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